



JUNE LAKE LOOP-UPPER OWENS

TOUR OF JUNE LAKE AREA

When entering the June Lake area, leaving Mammoth Lakes Junction, the first point of interest is Casa Diablo. Until the 1930's this was the site of an active geyser. Only once in recent years has the geyser erupted. In 1959, it suddenly became active again for a short time.

Leaving Casa Diablo and proceeding north again, the highway passes through one of the largest Jeffrey Pine forests known. For an interesting side trip to the Inyo Craters, turn west on the Dry Creek Road and watch for signposts. From the parking area it is only a few minutes walk to the craters. One contains clear green water, the other a deep opaque green. No fish life is found in either.

A road turns off Highway 395 east, to the Big Springs campground and two fine resorts, all located on the headwaters of the Owens River. The large public campground at Big Springs is semi-improved and a very popular area. Many campers come here year after year for both trout fishing and deer hunting.

Approximately one mile north of the Big Springs turn off is a road to the west, along Deadman Creek. Somewhere in the Deadman Creek area the Lost Cement Mine is believed to be located. The name "Deadman Creek" was taken when the body of a man named Robert Hume was found in its waters. Hume was the partner of a miner named Farnsworth, who reported finding the legendary "strike" in 1861. Hume and Farnsworth went into the area, and shortly thereafter Farnsworth went to Monoville (long since abandoned) to report that they had been attacked by Indians. Farnsworth carried a bullet wound in the leg and his clothing showed many knife cuts. The discovery of Hume's body in the creek, together with other details indicated that Farnsworth had killed his partner. Farnsworth was arrested, but escaped and was not heard of thereafter. But from 1861 till the present day the search for the location of the ore of fabulous high grade gold continues.

North on Highway 395 is Crestview. A lodge, store, cafe, service station, cabins and campgrounds await the hunter, fisherman, and vacationer. A stream winds its way through the camp area, beneath towering Jeffrey Pines. Across the highway is a large state highway maintenance station.

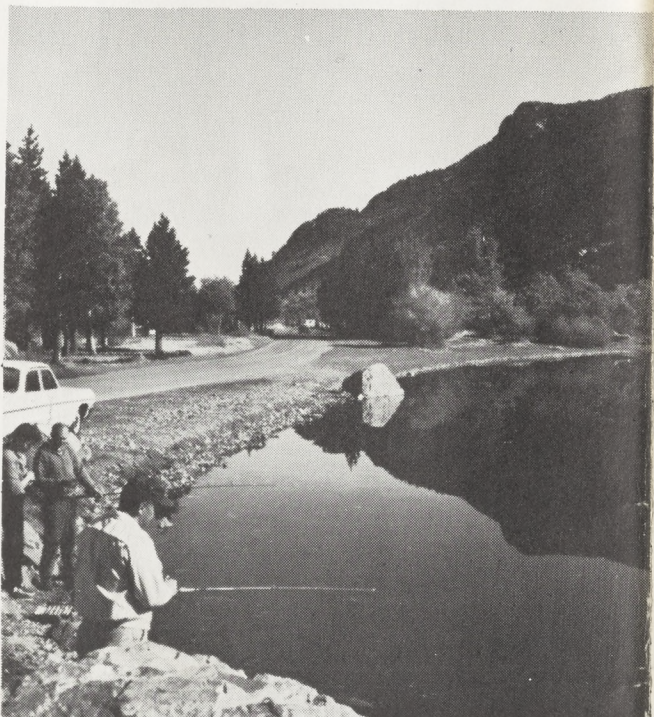
From Crestview the highway climbs steeply over Deadman Summit, 8,041 feet. After passing the summit, a road going west leaves the highway and approaches an interesting hill of pure obsidian, the material used by the Indians to form arrowheads. Several of these domes are apparent in the region and were the result of volcanic activity.

Turning westward from Highway 395 is the June Lake Loop road. After a short drive across the flats, the road climbs abruptly to "Oh! Ridge." Below "Oh! Ridge," on the shore of the lake, is the bathing beach. During warm summer months, many people enjoy this natural beach and the fresh, clear water of the lake. To the north of the beach, hidden among the pines, is a trailer park and store. From the ridge, the Loop road drops down and follows the shore of June Lake to the town.

Before entering the town of June Lake, the road passes the Balanced Rock, a huge boulder deposited by a passing glacier, which seems always ready to topple from its perch onto the road. An estimate of its weight has been made at nearly 100 tons. The town offers just about everything necessary for a comfortable vacation, winter or summer. A large, rustic lodge, modern hotel accommodations, cabins, trailer parks, boat landings, rentals, markets, cafes, general and novelty stores, service stations and garages, and completely equipped sporting goods stores. Many summer cabins surround the town itself, and dot the hillsides across the lake.

Big Rock Landing and June Lake Marina have launching ramps, fishing tackle and fuel, and almost any service or facility the boater may require. The operators are able to supply accurate information about the lake and fishing conditions.

Practically joining the western end of June Lake is Gull Lake, a smaller, but very lovely lake, offering some of the finest Eastern Brook trout fishing in the region.



Bank Fishing at Silver Lake

The eastern shore has a boat marina. Along the southern shore, between the lake and the highway is found a fine campground, among shimmering aspen. The Loop road continues through meadows as it drops down to Fern Creek. This creek rushes down from its source in Fern Lake, high in a basin above the canyon.

At this point the Loop road reaches Silver Lake and follows the shoreline until it reaches the resort at the northern end of the lake. Store, cafe, cabins, service station, boat rentals and a large modern trailer park serve the vacationer here, with a pack station nearby. Throughout the entire June Lake Loop region exceptional deer hunting is enjoyed by nimrods during each Fall hunting season.

Leaving Silver Lake, the road parallels Rush Creek as it winds its way to Grant Lake. Nearly the entire length of the creek between these two points is set up for camping in the meadows and among the aspen and willows. Very fine fishing is enjoyed along this stream, with some large trout being taken every year. The big ones probably enter the stream from one of the lakes, and they

surely increase the zest for fishing this stream. As Rush Creek enters Grant Lake, the road follows the shoreline of the lake. This is a man-made lake, and is a part of the City of Los Angeles, Dept. of Water and Power system. Water from several local streams has been diverted into this lake in order to control the flow of water through the Owens Tunnel, carrying waters to the Owens River.

Large trout are caught in Grant each season, the largest usually being German Browns. Trolling is popular on Grant Lake, and boats may be rented at the marina, which also houses a store and cafe. From the north end of the lake, it is a short drive to the point where the June Lake Loop road rejoins Highway 395. Along this drive are seen, to the east, the Aeolian Buttes and the Mono Craters and the first glimpse of Mono Lake.



June Lake

Photo by Bill Kelsey

The June Lake Loop area, with its necklace of four small lakes nestled 7600 feet on the eastern slope of the High Sierra, offers the fisherman and trailer boat enthusiast one of California's most unique vacation settings. The beauty of the aspen groves and the majestic pines with mirrored lakes, well-stocked with German Brown, Rainbows, Brook, and even Kokanee salmon, challenge the Izaak Walton to try their skill. Trailer boaters will find adequate marina and launching facilities, and the whole family can enjoy camping in the many shaded campgrounds.

For those who like to visit the back country, the Frontier Pack Train headquarters at Silver Lake, with pack trips and hour, day and excursion rides. These trips take you off the beaten track, and into some of the most beautiful country in the Sierra.

Water skiers can cross June, Grant, Gull, and Silver Lakes off their list for they are fishing lakes only, with a speed limit of 10 m.p.h. But other outdoorsmen find almost everything that can be desired to make their stay enjoyable. Fishing season begins the first Saturday in May and ends October 31.

The closing of fishing season is only the beginning of other activity in the fabulous June Lake area. With the advent of fall and winter, the snow sports take over and the little village of June Lake is the mecca of skiers from all over the west.



Loop Trophy Winner Caught at Grant Lake by F.S. Berg



Big Rock Landing at June Lake

TRIUMPH PRESS, INC.
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JUNE MOUNTAIN - WINTER SKI FACILITIES

The towering 10,212 foot June Mountain has been conquered for skiing with chair lifts, poma lift and T-Bar up the back mountain to the vast beauty of the High Sierra snow country. Here, sheltered from storm and winds, they have engineered 15 miles of broad cut runs down breathtaking stepped terrain. The runs from the top of June's back mountain can be compared in terrain, smoothness, speed and needed skill with the best ski resorts in North America. June Mountain has also gained a reputation for its ideal beginner's ski bowl and its challenging slopes for the intermediate skier.

June Mountain Ski School has instruction — for classes and individuals — daily during ski season. The school is a member school of Professional Ski Instructors of America. The latest and most popular American technique is taught by a staff of ten under the direction of Director Toby von Euw. Swiss-born von Euw, a veteran of the skiing slopes of Europe and America, was selected from 50 applicants for the first U.S. Demonstration team of 45 professional instructors at the International Ski Congress in Zurich, Switzerland.



June Mountain Ski Lift

Access to the chalet is by chair lift, which crosses the expert slope. Above the chalet, gentle runs are found in a beautiful setting which offers varying views of miles of the surrounding lakes and country. The chalet offers shops and restaurant of great charm, enhanced by the vista of June, Gull, and Mono Lakes. During the summer months the restaurant remains open and patrons ride the chair lift up the mountain to their dinner engagement, virtually "on top of the world."

With such an amazing variety of outdoor recreation, it is understandable why the June Lake and Mountain area has become one of the West's most famous vacation spots.

DEADMAN RECREATION AREA

Located near Crestview in heavily timbered country. Supplies and phone at Crestview Lodge. Lightly developed at present; a good spot for "getting away from it all". Site of the "Lost Cement" mine; a fabulous gold mine located in the 1800's by three German brothers and since lost. Administered by District Ranger at Mammoth Lakes, California.

MAP OF THE HIGH SIERRA JUNE LAKE LOOP UPPER OWENS

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Sporting Goods

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- Launching facilities
- Dockage
- Boat landings
- Bait
- Fishing Information
- Hiking
- Hunting
- Winter Sports

Kym's

GUIDE No. 21

MAPS and CHARTS of Recreation Areas

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Frontier Pack Train

Frontier Pack Train, Bob Vinnedge and Cicero Jay. Phone June Lake Mitchell 8-7701. Mail address: P.O. Box 271, Bishop, California. Located at June and Silver Lakes. Pack trips, hour, day and excursion rides. Many fine lakes and streams. Good fishing and hunting. Photographers paradise. Reliable stock.

INYO CRATER LAKES PICNIC GROUND, on the Dry Creek Road 3 miles south of Crestview and 4 miles west of Highway 395. Nearby are two very recent volcanic craters with lakes in the bottom. 3 picnic units. No water. Elevation 8200 feet. Season — June to September.

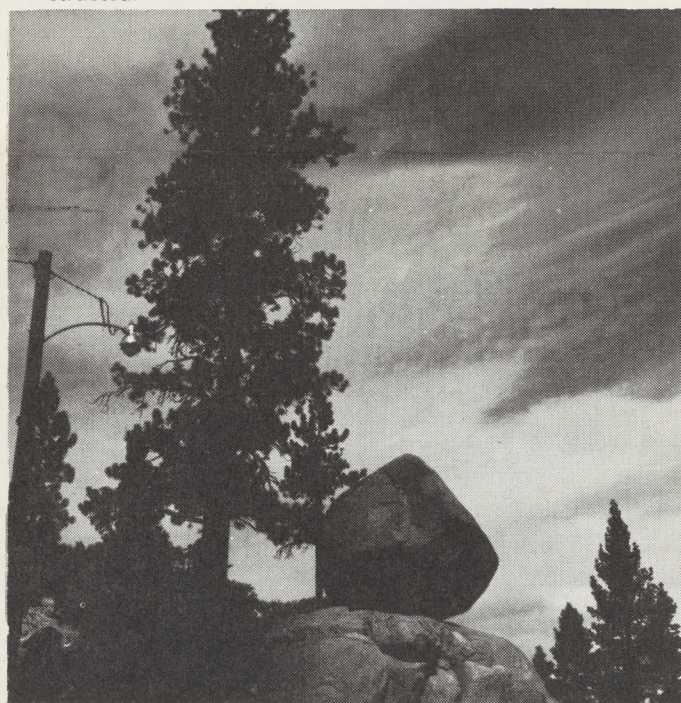
CHOCOLATE FOREST PICNIC GROUND, on Highway 395 6 miles south of Crestview. Beautiful Jeffrey Pine forest. Scenes for movie "Rose Marie" were filmed here in 1953. 6 picnic units. No water. Elevation 7575 feet. Season — June to September.

JEFFREY GLADE PICNIC GROUND, on Highway 395 2 1/2 miles south of Crestview. Beautiful Jeffrey Pine forest. 4 picnic units. No water. Elevation 7650 feet. Season — June to September.

BIG SPRINGS, located on Owens River 10 miles north of Mammoth and 2 miles east of U.S. 395 on oiled road. 16 camps. Spring water. Supplies at Thompson Ranch. Elevation 7200 feet. Hunting, fishing and picnicking. Season — May - October.

GLASS CREEK, located 13 miles north of Mammoth Ranger Station and 1/4 mile west of U.S. 395. Near Crestview Resort. 17 camps. Stream water. Supplies at Crestview. Elevation 7300 feet. Hunting, fishing. Season — May to October.

LOWER DEADMAN CREEK, located 12 miles north of Mammoth Ranger Station, and 3 miles west of U.S. 395, near Crestview Resort. 28 camps with stoves. Stream water. Elevation 7600 feet. Supplies at Crestview. Hunting, fishing. Season — June to October. Newly constructed.



BOULDER ROCK, SYMBOL OF JUNE LAKE

HARTLEY SPRINGS RECREATION AREA

Located west of Highway 395 at Deadman Summit in a beautiful Jeffrey Pine forest. Evidence of very recent volcanic activity in the area includes Obsidian Dome, Wilson Butte, Devil's Punch Bowl and Mono Craters. June Lake resort area is nearby. Administered by the District Ranger, Lee Vining, California.

HARTLEY SPRINGS, 1 1/2 miles west of U.S. 395. 70 camps. Piped water. Elevation 8400 feet. Season — June to September.

REVERSED CREEK RECREATION AREA

Located just west of Highway 395 a few miles south of Lee Vining. Shopping facilities, motels, trailer courts, medical facilities and phone service available within the area. Several resorts, boat landings and a pack station are located here. Scenic lakes and streams set amid mountain peaks. Gateway to Minarets Wilderness, Gem Pass and Agnew Pass. Swimming permitted in June Lake. Administered by the District Ranger, Lee Vining, California.

JUNE LAKE, on the shore of June Lake, 2 miles west of U.S. 395 on the June Lake Loop Road. 40 camps with stoves. Piped water. Boat launching ramp to June Lake. Boating, fishing, swimming, hunting, picnicking. Elevation 7600 feet. Stores and supplies nearby. Season — May to October. Reconstructed to modern standards. Fees are charged at this campground.

UPPER GULL LAKE, located on shore of Gull Lake, 5 miles west of U.S. 395 on June Lake Loop Road. 13 tent camps with stoves. Piped water and boat launching ramp. Boating, fishing, hunting, picnicking. Stores and supplies nearby. Elevation 7600 feet. Season — May to October. Reconstructed to modern standards. Fees are charged at this campground.

LOWER GULL LAKE, located across road from Upper Gull Lake Campground. 18 units with piped water. 12 stoves. Boating, fishing, hunting, hiking, swimming nearby. Supplies nearby. Fees are charged at this campground.

SILVER LAKE, located on northwest shores of Silver Lake on good paved highway. 65 camp units with stoves. Piped water. Resort, trailer court and riding and pack station adjacent. Fishing, boating. Elevation 7200 feet. Season — May to October. Newly reconstructed to modern standards. Fees are charged at this campground.

The Upper Owens River country is a complete contrast to the June Lake Loop area although it is just a few miles east in the direction of Lake Crowley. In this flat, almost treeless and desert-like area the upper reaches of the Owens River lazily wanders across the land. Fishing for Browns and Rainbows is excellent and the streams have yielded some big ones. In this general area, which could be technically defined as the Owens River north of Lake Crowley, there are few resorts or stores. The principal place of habitation is Arcularius Ranch reached by taking the Big Springs Road east where it intersects with 395 about 6 miles north of Mammoth turn off. The ranch is about three miles over improved road on Algers Canyon. Arcularius Ranch has housekeeping cabins, general store and landing strip.



RUSH CREEK. This area reached by continuing northeast from Silver Lake Campground, and lies along Rush Creek. Easily visible from Loop Road. Approximately 52 camps scattered in groups along 2 1/2 miles of Rush Creek. No water provided, but can be obtained from Silver Lake Campground. Hunting, fishing in Rush Creek. Picnicking, boating. Store and supplies, riding and pack station nearby. Elevation 7200 feet. Season — May to October.

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